

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00856 100926Z

13

ACTION INT-05

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R 100814Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 686

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 856

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EMIN, MU

SUBJECT: USGS OMAN REPORT AND PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE WORK

REF: MUSCAT 597

1. DURING COURSE OF DEC. 4 CONVERSATION ON OTHER TOPICS, ECON ADVISER JOHN TOWNSEND FOCUSSED BRIEFLY ON USGS POTENTIAL CONTRACT WITH OMANGOV. TOWNSEND CONTINUES TO FAVOR SUCH ARRANGEMENT, BUT THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR HIM TO OVERRIDE OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES (IN THIS CASE, SALEM MACKI, DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AFFAIRS). TOWNSEND SUGGESTED THAT THIS SUBJECT BE RAISED DURING COURSE OF AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, PETROLEUM AND MINERAL AFFAIRS (SAID AHMAD AL-SHANFARI). AMBASSADOR PLANS TO DO THIS.

2. IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE IN POSITION TO PURSUE OPTION (KUWAIT 3870) OF TAKING UP MATTER OF POTENTIAL FUTURE PROGRAM WITH SULTAN QABOOS AT A SUITABLE TIME. IN ORDER TO DO SO, WE NEED TO HAVE FINAL USGS REPORT (WHICH WE ASSUME WILL BE PRINTED VERSION OF "PRELIMINARY" REPORT ALREADY PRESENTED TO MACKI) IN HAND. PLEASE ADVISE BY CABLE WHEN WE MIGHT ANTICIPATE RECEIPT FINAL REPORT.
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